



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1837-MC-FFS

DATE: October 19, 2017

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Mental Hospitals, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) and Nurse Practitioners

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Medication Coverage for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The department wishes to provide coverage clarification for methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone administered or prescribed under MAT programs which provide medication treatment therapies for opioid addiction in a MAT program setting.

MAT programs, including opioid treatment programs (OTP), combine use of various counseling and behavioral therapies and medications to treat substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder. Federal legislation, regulations and guidelines govern MAT for opioid addiction. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) oversees accreditation standards and certification processes for OTP. Applicable federal law requires patients who receive treatment in these types of programs to receive medical, behavioral and other assessment or treatment services, in addition to the prescribed medication.

Methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone are FDA approved medications for treatment of opioid addiction. Site of service restrictions (i.e., medical vs. outpatient pharmacy benefit coverage) are consistent with the intent of the laws for treatment and consistent with an entity's ability to bill Medicaid.

- Patients taking methadone to treat opioid addiction must receive the medication under the supervision of a physician. By law, methadone can only be dispensed through an OTP certified by SAMHSA.
- Unlike methadone treatment, which must be performed in a highly structured clinic, buprenorphine is permitted to be prescribed or dispensed in physician offices, to treat opioid dependency.
- Naltrexone comes in a pill form or as an injectable. Oral naltrexone can be prescribed by any health care provider who is licensed to prescribe medications. The injectable form is administered intra muscular (IM) once a month.

Drugs for MAT	IA Medicaid MEDICAL Benefit	IA Medicaid PHARMACY Benefit
Methadone	COVERED – no PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S0109 Oral • J1230 Injection 	NOT COVERED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methadone not covered through pharmacy benefit for MAT.
Buprenorphine/Naloxone and Buprenorphine Transmucosal products i.e. Brands – Bunavail, Suboxone, Zubsolv	COVERED – no PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J0571 - Buprenorphine, Oral 1mg • J0572-J0575 Buprenorphine/Naloxone, Oral and Transmucosal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J0572, <= 3mg ○ J0573, > 3mg / < 6mg ○ J0574,>6mg/<10mg ○ J0575,>10mg 	COVERED – PA required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) sublingual film is preferred on the PDL, requires PA. • Buprenorphine alone is nonpreferred, requires PA, only considered for pregnant women
Naltrexone (oral and injectable)	COVERED – no PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J2315 – Injectable only (Depot Form), 1mg (by report) 	ORAL COVERED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral naltrexone tablets (generic) preferred on PDL, no PA. • Injectable naltrexone not covered through pharmacy benefit for MAT.

It is recognized that injectable methadone products are not approved for outpatient treatment but may be utilized in the inpatient setting for use in temporary treatment of opioid dependence in patients unable to take oral medication. For detoxification and maintenance of opioid dependence, methadone should be administered in accordance with the treatment standards cited in 42 CFR Section 8, including limitations on unsupervised administration.

It is important to note that methadone prescribed for use in pain management is covered under the Iowa Medicaid pharmacy benefit. Methadone, for the purpose of MAT is covered under the Iowa Medicaid medical benefit and can only be provided by a SAMHSA/DEA approved and state of Iowa licensed OTPs.

The providers that may administer either oral or injectable medications under the medical benefit are listed below. These providers must be enrolled with the IME in accordance with [441 IAC 77.36, 77.1, or 77.15](#).

Procedure Code	Providers who may provide the service are indicated by an (x) in the respective box			
	Nurse Practitioner	MD	DO	Community Mental Health Center
S0109	X	X	X	X
J1230	X	X	x	-
J0571	X	X	X	-
J0572-J0575	X	X	X	-

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.